

B. Specification

Please amend the paragraph at page 30, lines 7-23, as follows:

--As a method of carrying out an oxidative cleavage of a carbon-carbon double bond by an oxidizing agent as above to obtain a carboxylic acid, for example, a method using a permanganic acid salt (J. Chem. Soc., Perkin. Trans. 1,806 (1973)), a method using a dichromate (Org. Synth., 4,698 (1963)), a method using a periodic acid salt (J. Org. Chem., 46, 19 (1981)), a method using nitric acid (Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. S59-190945), a method using ozone (J. Am. Chem. Soc., 81, 4273 (1959)) and etc. are known. Comptes Rendus de l' Academie des Sciences - Series IIC - Chemistry~~Macromolecular chemistry~~, 4,289-293 (2001) also reports a method of obtaining a carboxylic acid by reacting a carbon-carbon double bond at the end of the side chain of a polyhydroxyalkanoate produced by microorganisms using potassium permanganate as an oxidizing agent under acidic conditions. The same method can also be used ~~also~~ in the present invention.--